

Safety Last

the October Club. These were not ominous, might
pký their
little parts as long as circumstances were
favourable and cash,
mostly inherited or allowed, was forthcoming—
Blackshirts
enjoying a brief spell of larger fame when Lord
Rothermere
became their champion, only to abandon them as
suddenly as
he had taken them up, and thenceforth receiving
no mention
whatsoever in the Press; Communists,
conspiratorial without
much necessity, heroically wrestling with Lenin's
Collected
Works and not less heroically modelling their
speeches on
Stalin's, only notorious when some clergyman's
son, instead of
confining himself to dialectical materialism, in his
simplicity laid
himself open to a charge of attempting to subvert
armed forces
of the Crown. The tide of violence and
lawlessness, which
seemed to be approaching, came from without
rather than from
within; strange deeds, in their nature
inconceivably remote, in
space near, and ever nearer; strange men, as
unlike Cabinet
Ministers as London mounted police were unlike
Cossacks, and
whose procedure bore no resemblance at all to
passing Acts of
Parliament; not right-honourable, or honourable,
or learned,
or gallant, no protracted debate with occasional
processions
through Aye and No lobbies, and reasoned
amendments care-
fully inserted; decisions suddenly, recklessly taken
and ruthlessly
executed.

Frail by comparison seemed all the apparatus of
constituted
authority—umbrella against sword, bowler hat
against helmet,
words against deeds, paper against steel, money
against passion,
mental fight against actual. Was England truly
saved when the

Pound was saved ? it began to be wondered. Were
England and
the Pound indeed one and the same ? Was
greatness recovered
when the Budget was balanced, and courage
sufficiently displayed
in daring to reduce unemployment benefit?

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Saved or not saved, England still had its National
Government,
and was to continue to have it. Its huge
majority operated